

Testimony of Ellen McCormick of
ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass)
Before the Connecticut General Assembly
Public Health
Friday, March 14, 2012

Testimony in support of HB #5330

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

My name is Ellen McCormick and my testimony is in support of HB#5330. I live in Weston, CT and I am here as a grandmother of five young children and representing ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass). We are the parent organization of GMOfreeCT and I think you might remember our constituents from last year's GMO labeling bill. They're a group with a tremendous amount of perseverance and information on pesticides and chemicals as many of them have been affected by these chemicals which has spurred them on to fight the invasion of unwanted chemicals.

In Section 1a and 1b I would encourage you to strengthen the language about the use of integrative pest management. We all know that's a marketing term for using less pesticides but it isn't always used judiciously due to a lack of training or common sense. What constitutes an application of pesticides to eliminate an immediate threat to human health? How will that be determined and will that application be put in a record so there is a control of who used it, how much of a chemical was applied, where was it used, and why!

Mothers have over 280 chemicals, at a minimum, in their blood that is passed along to their newborns. Protecting our mothers of child-bearing age and our children from toxic chemicals is URGENT. And what better place to do that than on school grounds, parks, playgrounds and athletic fields and municipal greens where they

walk and take their pets and children to play. Is it right that play should result in the insidious intake of chemicals that will harm children and pets and mothers-to-be for life and into future generations?

This is not a decision that should languish in our legislature and it is not something that is up for debate any longer. It is so! The scientific studies prove it!! And now it is your job to pass this bill to protect them. They are in your hands!

There is a 20% rise in children's brain cancer and leukemia since the 1970s.

There has been a rise in adult cancers – breast, testicular and prostate among them.

There has been a dramatic rise in learning and behavioral disorders including a ten-fold increase in autism spectrum disorder over the last 15 years and ADHD affecting over 2 million children in the U.S.

There has been a rise in reproductive disorders with 40% more women experiencing difficulty conceiving and maintaining a pregnancy in 2002 than did in 1982.

There have been significant rises in asthma, insulin-resistance and diabetes.

When I was growing up there was very little infertility. Now, it's rampant. Women now worry about not getting pregnant!!

There are no more questions about whether these chemicals are dangerous or not. The science is in! They are dangerous!! Why are these chemicals in our products since we know they are harmful? Since our government regulatory agencies are remiss in allowing these chemicals into our products, we now need your assistance in protecting us at the state level from their irresponsibility. Let's reward those who are being responsible and seeking good solutions to their health problems and not the chemical companies who have

bought our FDA, USDA and EPA which curtails any meaningful legislation at the federal level. I'm certain the profits of chemical companies and consumer products should not trump the health of our families and in particular our children and women of childbearing age. Please understand the urgency of the fact that each generation's DNA will get worse. That is a certainty.

Please pass HB #5330. Thank you!